Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A telecommunications system comprising:

a network;

S switches running PNNI protocol in communication through the network, where S is an integer greater than or equal to 3, each switch having a plurality of logical nodes contained within a PNNI peer group, each switch having a system capabilities information group which allow the switch to store proprietary information without affecting the switches to interoperate, and a nodal information information group which has information about a particular logical node, all nodes in the peer group have a nodal information information group from every other logical node in the peer group, each switch having a topology database with all configuration information of the S switches, any one switch providing all the configuration information for all of the S switches by attaching a system capabilities information group to a nodal information information group, the configuration information includes a name of the switch, an IP address of the switch, a software version of the switch, and hardware type of the switch, the switches send configuration information to each other, the switches send SNMP

queries to each other to return retrieved configuration information from each other, and the switches respond to the SNMP queries by sending the requested configuration information to the other switches which sent the SNMP queries.

Claims 15 and 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A system as described in Claim 14 wherein the switches attach a systems information group to a nodal information group to propagate the configuration information to the other switches in response to an SNMP query.

Claim 18 (original): A system as described in Claim 17 wherein the switches have one or more logical nodes.

Claim 19 (original): A system as described in Claim 18 wherein the nodes form a first PNNI peer group.

Claim 20 (original): A system as described in the Claim 19 including a plurality of PNNI peer groups.

Claim 21 (original): A system as described in Claim 20 wherein any node of the first PNNI peer group can provide all the configuration information for the first PNNI peer group.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method for operating a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

placing configuration information of a first switch of a plurality of switches of the network running PNNI protocol into a topology database of the first switch, the configuration information includes a name of the switch, an IP address of the switch, a software version of the switch, and hardware type of the switch, each switch having a system capabilities information group which allow the switching to store proprietary information without affecting the switches to interoperate, and a nodal information information group which has information about a particular logical node, all nodes in the peer group have a nodal information information group from every other logical node in the peer group;

sending an SNMP query from a second switch running PNNI protocol to the first switch for the configuration information in the topology data base of the first switch; and

propagating the configuration information of the first switch to the second

switch of the network by attaching a system capabilities information group to a nodal

information information group.

Claim 23 (original): A method as described in Claim 22 wherein the first and

second switches are in a PNNI peer group, and after the propagating step, there is the step of

retrieving configuration information for all the switches in the PNNI peer group from the first

switch.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 23 wherein

the propagating step includes the steps of attaching a system information group having the

configuration information from the topology data base of the first switch requested by the

SNMP query to a nodal information group; and propagating the system information group

attached to the nodal information group to the second switch.